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From Bruce.

Great Britain has never before mourned a foreigner as it has President Kennedy. The tributes to his memory have been multitudinous, untinged by distinctions of race, religion, or class. Churches of every denomination, from tiny Scottish kirks to monumental cathedrals, have held services, with packed congregations, in his honor. Politicians of every party have been unanimous in his praise.

The whole has been phenomenal, spontaneous, impressive, even bewildering. Many demonstrations of affectionate respect spring from the hearts of those who believe he might have become the creator of a new world order. Like other mass symbols, this one is not subject to analysis, and is mystically interpreted.

Youth, charm, zest, courtesy, magnanimity, style, idealism married to practicality, physical and moral courage, wit, mastery of the spoken and written

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written word, political skill, sophistication, broad humanity, intellectual curiosity, and other traits of personality and character made the late President peculiarly appealing to the British. Even the monstrous manner of his death enhanced his stature. A recognition of his position as Leader of the Free World was, at last ungrudgingly accorded him.

The beauty, grace, elegance, gallantry, dignity, and attractiveness of Mrs. Kennedy added lustre to the Presidency. Her devotion to the arts made the White House a cultural centre, interesting to foreign observers. She was, in herself, a national asset.

The endless streams of British citizens into the American Embassy to sign condolence books, and inscribe their compassion, is to be marvelled over. Letters and telegrams of commiseration have arrived by the thousand, including those from organizations that had formerly picketed the Chancery in protest against American policies.

One cannot explain this outpouring of emotion in logical terms. These people, dimly fearing the future, regretting the already distant past, embodied in the President their desires and hopes for a better-ordered future.

The Kennedy tragedy has again brought into focus here the true state /of world

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of world affairs. With President Kennedy on the scene, and some expectation that East-West tensions might become less acute, the British were perhaps slipping into an introverted mood. The Common Market episode was, at least temporarily, over, elections were in the offing, business was good, and the wearisome liquidation of colonial possessions in not distant prospect.

The assassination, and its degrading attendant circumstances, jolted them. ~~the British into reality.~~ It shook them from the tempting daydream that some form of narrow nationalism might be the answer to their ills; it re illuminated the virtues of interdependence--first of all, US/UK interdependence, then the wider interdependence signaled so dramatically by photographs of eminent foreign mourners following the President's coffin last Monday.

One cannot tell how long this renewed sense of being part of a larger complex will persist, but it is now true to say t[illegible]his country the sense of the importance of the President of the US[illegible]ern world has never been higher. President Johnson's [illegible]ive by radio, slightly blurred by Telstar, was listened t[illegible]avidly in the UK as in the US. He was speaking to the world, but in the British part of it there /was

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was the feeling that they had with us an especially shared interest and common need.

President Johnson was not expected to take a different line from his predecessor's with regard to the fulfillment of our commitments abroad, and to the United Nations, but the key fact for British listeners was that when he spoke there came through radio and television thunderous handclaps indicating Congressional approval. To the British, our Congress is a mysterious and sometimes capricious force: they read its applause as a refreshed mandate. In their view, the new President did well; he did very well; he could not have done better.

Fog diverted Prime Minister Douglas-Home from London Airport, but upon landing at Manchester he immediately told his people his impressions of his Washington visit, and of President Johnson. His statements were exactly what they wanted to hear: That US/UK relations would be maintained on the same intimate basis as in the past: Presidents had changed but not the partnership.

BRUCE

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